



Friday
June 18, 2010

Weekly Views

The BMV mobile unit was able to process 158 State I.D. Cards for inmates soon to be released from Plainfield Correctional Facility. Thanks to the partnership between IDOC and the BMV, 467 inmates have been provided with proper State I.D.'s prior to their release this year.

Congratulations to Westville's Linda Sward, Director of the facility's Therapeutic Community (TC). Ms. Sward is the recipient of the American Correctional Association's "Best in the Business" award. Her pioneering and innovative leadership of the facility's 440 bed TC Unit was recognized in the most recent issue of ACA's *Corrections Today*.

Congratulations to Wabash Valley staffers Sam Zollars and Aaron Jerrell for being big losers! Both were part of a weight-loss competition in Sullivan County and their team of four took the top prize, losing 235 pounds. Sam lost more weight than anyone else, over 75 pounds!

U.S. Department of Labor Assistant Secretary Jane Oates and other USDOL Regional & State Representatives were on hand for an Apprenticeship graduation ceremony at Plainfield Correctional Facility. 105 offenders were recognized for meeting the on-the-job and related training requirements for completion.

Miami Correctional Facility held its annual Family Fun Day with more than 300 staff and family members present. There were K-9 and E-Squad demonstrations, pony rides, a dunk tank, children's games, corn hole, croquet, ladder ball, water slide, bouncy castle, and an old fashion cookout for all. The day ended with Corey Elzbeck, CMS, kissing a live pig on the snout. Corey was the winner of the Kiss a Pig competition, which raised more than \$350 for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

Branchville Correctional Facility's Parenting Department hosted its annual Children's Center picnic. Approximately 15 dads and over 20 kids participated in the event. The children were able to enjoy a day with their fathers including hamburgers, hot dogs, and games.

PEN Products' Job Placement division held two Career Path Planning Workshops at the CCA Marion County Jail 2 and the Indianapolis Re-entry Educational Facility. 56 offenders and 25 re-entry professionals from IDOC, PEN, and area service providers attended the workshops. The groups worked on a variety of activities dealing with decision making, time management and career planning.

Members of the SITCON team hosted a pizza sale at the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility. Over \$170 was raised to benefit the SITCON teams' efforts to attend a Hostage Negotiation Conference in South Carolina in October.

Four students from Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility participated in a Restorative Justice Project at the Jefferson County Animal Shelter with Program Director Taflinger and Recreation Staff.

Six staff members from New Castle Correctional Facility served breakfast to approximately 140 kids at the Henry County Sheriff's Youth Camp. New Castle also donated \$500 and loaned the camp 140 mattresses for the week.

Anderson Herald Bulletin reporter Christina Wright and photographer John Cleary visited the Pendleton Correctional Facility to interview Internal Affairs Officer Mike Rains in connection with a story on the Sentinel II Ionscan Machine that has been installed at the facility.

The Correctional Industrial Facility was the site of the Unchained Gang Motorcycle Ministry and the Soul Patrol band from Ellettsville House of Prayer. Inside the gymnasium, sixty volunteers, their motorcycles and the Soul Patrol rock band shook the house.

Pendleton Juvenile had two students work on a Habitat for Humanity worksite. The students participate in community events as a part of the restorative justice mission of the Division of Youth Services.

The Indiana State Prison held two graduations. Offenders received their GED Diplomas and the Department of Labor presented certificates to offenders for the Apprenticeship Programs. Grace College and Ball State University presented Associate and Bachelor Degrees to 62 offenders.